

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 6th May 1876.

WE extract the following from an article in the *Suhrid*, of the 25th April, headed the "Police":—Though we may be said to enjoy almost perfect security of life and property at the present time, and are freed from the raids of the *Bargis* and numberless robbers of other names who infested the country before its conquest by the British, still oppressions have not entirely ceased to exist. Nay, in the officers of the present police, we see but the old *Bargis* brought back, as it were, to life. The Police Department is a source of reproach to Government. The truth of our observations will be seen, if we only reflect on the doings of the police in villages. But why in villages alone? Even the Metropolitan Police have become notorious for their oppressions, and if so in Calcutta, the villagers are almost, as a matter of course, destined to bear their grievances. Instead of one Seráj-ud-dowlah, who at one time oppressed Bengal, we have now, in the police constables and chowkeedars, a thousand Seráj-ud-dowlahs exercising unlimited authority over the people of India. We, of course, fully admit that, by the creation of the police, Government intended only the benefit of the people, but owing to our ill-fate, that which was for good has become a source of evil. It would not be any exaggeration to say that the people have not at this moment the least confidence in these guards of our domiciles. The troubles and expenses involved in any application for help, more than outweigh any benefits derivable from it. It surely behoves Government to attend to the subject.

SUHRID,
April 25th, 1876.

2. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 27th April, makes the following remarks in one of its editorial paragraphs: The Marquis of Salisbury has introduced another Bill into Parliament. We entertained high hopes when a change of ministry brought him to power, and thought that a person of his experiences and abilities would not overlook the interests of India. But we now believe he is ready to sell India in the market of Manchester; and not only so, but by reducing the limit of the age of candidates for the Indian Civil Service, he has resolved to ruin us. Should the Bill introduced by him in connection with this subject become law, the Council will have in it men to represent only the interests of Manchester, who will be no better than mere machines in the hands of the Secretary of State.

BHARAT MIHIR,
April 27th, 1876.

3. The Bengal Municipalities' Bill, says the same paper, has passed the local Legislative Council, and the assent of the Governor-General alone is wanting to make it law. But if sanctioned by him, the miseries of the people in the mofussil will know no bounds. Almost all the newspapers have, with one consent, opposed the Bill, and clearly pointed out the injurious consequences that would follow its promulgation. Yet Sir Richard

BHARAT MIHIR.

Temple would not be convinced. No other wise administrator would have disregarded the Press and public opinion to such an extent as Lord Northbrook and Sir Richard Temple have done. We hope Lord Lytton will teach his Deputy good manners by putting a veto on the Bengal Municipal Bill.

BHARAT MIHIR,
April 27th, 1876.

4. The same paper thus writes in an article on the oppressions of the "Indigo Planters":—Times are again hard with the tenantry of Behar. They have no means of escape. They have hardly recovered from the distress of the last famine, when the oppressions of the Indigo planters press heavily on them. Upper Behar has been, in a manner, laid waste and devastated by the oppressions of the late manager of the Durbhunga estates. Numbers have taken refuge in Nepal. Mr. Geddes' Report on the Durbhunga estates has not been yet given to the public, and in Mr MacDonnell's report there is mention made of the indigo oppressions. The planters have made Ratnapore, Susullá, Sivapore, Berahi, and the neighbouring villages, a scene of desolation. The inhabitants have left their ancestral homes and fled to the province of the Goorkhas. Natives cling with remarkable tenacity to the place of their birth; and when we see them quit their homes, as the Beharis have done, and seek refuge in foreign places, we may feel assured that the movement must have been occasioned by sorrows and distresses of no slight nature. Such troubles were once felt in Nuddea; Mymensing, Serajunge, Dacca, and Rajshahye were ruined. Dinabundhoo Mittra has given us the painful story in pathetic language in his *Níl Darpan* or the *Mirror of Indigo Planters*. We regret much that in these days of prosperity, under the administration of Sir Richard Temple, we are obliged again to refer to the doings of those heartless men. During the famine, Sir Richard with his own eyes saw the condition of Behar, and the miseries of her inhabitants; and it therefore strikes us as the more amazing that he has kept silent on the matter. The people of Behar are poverty-stricken and wretched, and what human being can remain patient when troubles are heaped on him? Not a few indigo planters of Sarun, Chumparun, and Tirhoot seem to think that by their scant charity during the famine, and bland correspondence with Government, they have shown enough of mercy and humanity. The planters form, as it were, a separate species of the human race. They have not the least particle of justice or generosity; of cruelty they have enough. The oppressions practised by the tea planters on the people of Assam have been repeatedly dwelt upon in the letters of our correspondent, but the Government has not yet paid the smallest heed to his representations. There are no newspapers either in Assam or in Behar.

BHARAT MIHIR.

5. We give, *in extenso*, the following letter of a correspondent of the same paper, headed "Mr. Donough of Jamalpore":—This judicial officer has been for the last eight or nine years riding on the backs of the unfortunate inhabitants of Jamalpore. Ever since he came, the poorer classes have lost all hope of justice. Criminal cases are generally instituted by the weaker party, and it is easy to see how serious the evil becomes when decided against them. The inhabitants bore all this for some time; but when the matter had grown intolerable, they wrote about the virtues (!) of the Sahib in the columns of the *Dacca Prakásh* and the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*. Seeing that nothing was done by this means, they at last twice laid their grievances before Government. But unfortunately for them, this also proved ineffectual.

An officer who administers criminal justice ought to be even more competent and impartial than a judicial officer who tries civil suits; for in

his hands lies the security of the persons of the subjects. If, on the contrary, such an officer shows any bias or arbitrariness of conduct, and sentences a man to corporal punishment, there is no remedy. Some cases are not allowed an appeal, while, as to others, in respect of which this privilege is granted, the sentenced person has often undergone the punishment even before the appeal is heard. Here the sheristadar is the master of the office. A case might be won if he only could be bought over by bribes. There is no justice for one who has no money; while he who can pay has no need of pleaders or mukhtears. This subject once appeared in the newspapers, and was also brought to the notice of Government by the pleaders of Jamalpore. But far from any enquiry or investigation, neither the sheristadar nor the Deputy Magistrate was transferred. What is more to be regretted than that Government should remain indifferent to this matter? The petition of the pleaders of Jamalpore is still with Government; but why was not enquiry made? A little after the submission of this petition, Sir Richard Temple paid a visit to Jamalpore; and the truth of the allegations made in the petition might well have been ascertained by interrogating the petitioners. Perhaps Sir Richard was charmed with the courtesy of Mr. Donough, and with what Mr. Reynolds told him. How else shall injustice be checked, if His Honor will not check it?

Mr. Donough is now fifty-five years of age, and the inhabitants of Jamalpore would think themselves fortunate, if, under the rules of the Pension Code, he were required to retire from public service. Relying on the statement of the District Magistrate, Government has, however, reported him as still fit for service, and has thus shewn itself an enemy of the people. Before the last *Pujah*, we sent in a petition on this subject to the District Magistrate. But what came of it? What is there to prevent Government from ascertaining the truth by means of a local enquiry, if it really thinks that from feelings of malice alone the inhabitants are thus seeking to injure Mr. Donough's good name? We shall now, in brief, tell you of Mr. Donough's proceedings and his method of judgment. A poor man will never win a case. Any beautiful woman, however oppressed she may happen to be, will never come to the Sahib for justice. Mr. Donough has accepted presents of valuable dresses from two zemindars in this district. The municipal funds are not expended for the good of the rate-payers, nor with the consent of the members. Accounts also are not properly kept.

6. The *Rajshahye Samáchar*, of the 27th April, after referring to the excessive activity manifested by both the Bengal and the India Legislative Councils, and even by Parliament, in enacting laws for this country, thus remarks on the Bengal Municipal Bill:—We observe that provision has been made for the appointment of a number of lifeless members to the municipalities according to the elective system, and that in return for this privilege, an increase of taxation is apprehended. Works which have been hitherto generally performed at the expense of the State, or voluntarily done by the people, are now thrown on the municipalities. On the arrival of the Prince there was a good deal of glittering parade; but, notwithstanding, everybody knows the country is impoverished; and it can never be desirable to increase the burden by the imposition of new taxes. It is well known that many laborers in towns can only pay their assessments with great difficulty. If the municipal law is successful in adding to the comforts and happiness of the people, the income might certainly increase by the existing rates of taxation. There is a striking

RAJSHAHYE
SAMACHAR,
April 27th, 1876.

resemblance between the manner in which Government generally proceeds with its revenue measures, and that followed by zemindars, if, during the settlement of an estate, a ryot were to propose a reduction of rent. In all such cases the rent is invariably raised, never reduced. The Bengal Municipal Bill originally professed to be only a consolidation measure, but in practice important changes have been made.

RAJSHABYE
SAMACHAR,
April 27th, 1876.

7. The same paper makes the following observations on the Agrarian Disputes' Bill:—Instead of seeking to remove the real cause of all rent disputes between the zemindar and the ryot, as it should have done, Government has only devised in this Bill an easier way of disposing of rent-suits. It seems to think that the summary procedure provided for will effectually dissuade both the landlords and tenants from such disputes. Important principles are, however, involved in this subject, and they evidently require a larger amount of consideration than has been actually bestowed on them. It is difficult to account for the partiality Government has of late shown to the summary procedure and the increasing disfavor under which trial, according to legal procedure, seems to labor.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
April 29th, 1876.

8. The *Grámbártá Prákáshiká*, of the 29th April, writes the following in the course of an article on the Loyalty of the Natives. The closer the intimacy between the Sovereign and her subjects, the deeper becomes the sense of loyalty to the former. This may be illustrated by the results of the visits of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales. There can be no doubt that loyalty has increased in proportion to their acquaintance with the people. It is now to be wished that a member of the Royal Family should be appointed Viceroy of India. This appears all the more desirable, from the fact that Her Majesty has now assumed the title of "Empress of India."

HINDU HITOISHINI,
April 29th, 1876.

9. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 29th April, complains that Government has not yet taken any steps to check the extortions and insults passengers are subjected to by the *manjhees* of the ferry at Rekabi-Bazar, near Munshigunge, in the Dacca district. The matter should be promptly attended to.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

10. The same paper observes that the native public contemplate, with gratification, the severance of all governmental connection with the Bank of Bengal. They have been hitherto put to so much inconvenience from the arbitrary and insolent manner in which the Bank's agents in the mofussil do their work, that the change is looked for with eagerness. The Banks in the mofussil should all be placed under the Collector.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 30th, 1876.

11. The *Dacca Prákásh*, of the 30th April, remarks in reference to the new rule made by the Secretary of State reducing the limit of age of the candidates for admission into the Civil Service that, in spite of all their liberal professions, not a few of the acts of Government have for their object solely the promotion of the interests of Englishmen. The present Secretary of State has, however, surpassed all others in this matter. His action in connection with the Tariff Act is already known to everybody. The Indian Civil Service has next engaged his attention, and here he has reduced the limit of age of the candidates from 21 to 19 years. This arrangement will prove extremely injurious to the interests of natives. The editor then proceeds to make the same remarks as those noticed in paragraph 11 of our last Report.

DACCA PRAKASH.

12. While the mass of the people, writes the same paper, are gratified with the intelligence that the Queen will assume the title of "Empress of India," it has created some degree of uneasiness in the minds of the educated

and intelligent few who have some insight into British politics. The reason is not far to seek. Instead of their being taught self-government, and having a political representation, they are now to be subject to a sway similar to that of the despotic Emperors of Delhi.

13. The *Sádháraní*, of the 30th April, expresses his gratitude to the Lieutenant-Governor for his many and constant efforts to benefit the subjects. His Honor's liberal donations to Dr. Sarkar's Science Association, the Albert Hall, the establishment of a Technical School, and an Art Gallery at Calcutta, and the Asylum for the incurables, and many other noble acts, have endeared him to the people, who earnestly wish to have him as their Governor for ever. His Honor is besought to remove the abuses that exist in connection with the road-cess and the municipalities, and to grant natives admission into the Military service.

SADHARANI,
April 30th, 1876.

14. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 1st May, observes with gratification that Sir Richard Temple is not likely to leave any noble act undone, which it is in the power of man to accomplish. Not a week passes without the *Gazette* announcing one or other noble proposal. Some have been referred to this week; of these there is—(1) Female education, and (2) the establishment of a Technical School in Kidderpore.

SOMA PRAKASH,
May 1st, 1876.

15. It is firmly believed, says the same paper, that the public will come forward with liberal donations in aid of the Asylum for incurables which Sir Richard Temple has generously determined to establish in Calcutta. The proposal, however, should be carried out in its entirety. While on this subject, the editor would direct the attention of Government to the careless manner in which the patients in almost all charitable institutions are treated by those entrusted with their superintendence. While Government has been as liberal as ever in the matter of expenditure on such institutions, they have for this reason become extremely unpopular with the very classes whom they were intended to benefit. It would be better if, instead of appointing only its salaried officers to this work, Government would allow non-official native gentlemen to make occasional inspections.

SOMA PRAKASH.

16. Adverting to the Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor on the last report on the charitable dispensaries, the same paper remarks that the increase in their number is rather due to the prevalence of malarious fevers, than an increased partiality for the system of treatment adopted; and the number might with great advantage be further increased if only the officers knew how to do it properly, by asking the zemindars and all other wealthy natives for their aid and co-operation. Unfortunately, the officials in the mofussil are more disposed to command than to ask, and their persuasions generally take the shape of orders, to the extreme uneasiness of the parties thus sought to be honored. Government should keep a sharp eye on the doings of the officers entrusted with the task of supervising these charitable institutions. Mere calling of formal meetings and occasional inspection of accounts will not produce the desired good.

SOMA PRAKASH.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st May, agrees with the objections made by the British Indian Association in their memorial to Government on the Dramatic Performances' Bill, which is really an objectionable measure. It should be thrown out, as otherwise there is every likelihood of its being a fruitful source of oppression.

SAHACHAR,
May 1st, 1876.

18. Adverting to the extreme want of drinking-water in villages at the present time owing to the heat and the drought and the consequent misery and the unhealthiness of the inhabitants, the *Sulabha Samúchár*,

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
May 2nd, 1876.

of the 2nd May, earnestly beseeches Government to take speedy measures to remove this want. Excavation of canals and of the mouths of the silted up rivers are the only means by which this may be accomplished.

BEHAR BANDHU,
April 26th, 1876.

19. In noticing the interview between the Manchester deputation and Lord Lytton, prior to the departure of the latter from England, the *Behar Bandhu* thus remarks:—In the opinion of the Manchester manufacturers, Lord Lytton should do two things—first, remove all duties on Manchester cloths; and next, direct the attention of the Hindustani towards improvement in agriculture, by excavating canals and introducing a new description of ploughs, and thus encourage the increase of cotton and jute cultivation; so that first-rate materials may be yearly exported to Manchester. The merchants of that city, hitherto depressed, have now become elated; they have been blinded by avarice and wealth: prudence and righteousness have been laid aside—their whole thought is for their own good; but India's weal concerns them not. What! has John Bright become like them also? Are the Hindustanis always to be engaged in ploughing? And are we always to be looking at Manchester without any appearance of anxiety? Are we to toil and labor for the production of jute and cotton, and is Manchester to reap the profits? Since what time, and how, have we arrived at this state? Since the English rule began, and we commenced to enjoy the benefits thereof. There was a day when not England alone, but France likewise, eagerly sought after the muslins, shawls, and *kinkhabs* of this country: but now how great the change, that we long after madapollams and long-cloths. This is the fruit of the benefits of the English rule, and thus the Hindustanis are gradually losing their virtues and good qualities one after another, and the only thoughts of independence, heroism, religion, &c. We cannot manufacture either a pin or a handkerchief. What nation has ever elevated itself by attending only to agriculture, that Hindustan may entertain prospects of advancement?

URDU GUIDE,
April 26th, 1876.

20. An anonymous correspondent writes to the *Urdu Guide*, without date, from Soopool, a sub-division of zillah Bhagulpore, to the effect that the prices of food-grains have risen very high in this place in consequence of a failure of the crops. The laboring classes are in great straits, and though anxious to work, are unable to procure any, and there is very little to be got from charity. Baboo Anantlala has, with a view to assist the poor by finding work for them, commenced the construction of a well and a caravansary for the gratuitous accommodation of travellers.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 6th May 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
6th May 1876*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhārat Shramjībī" ...	Barāhanagar ...	Monthly	Fālgun, 1282 B. S.
2	"Promodī" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto	Māgh, 1282 B. S.
3	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kākiniā, Rungpore ...	Weekly	30th March and 6th April 1876.
4	"Surhid" ...	Muktāgāchá, Mymensing	Ditto	25th April 1876.
5	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Bauleah, Rājshahye ...	Ditto	26th ditto.
6	"Rajshahye Samāchār" ...	Karachmāriā, Rājshahye...	Ditto	27th ditto.
7	"Bhārat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto	27th ditto.
8	"Pratikār" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto	28th ditto.
9	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto	28th ditto.
10	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto	29th ditto.
11	"Hindu Hitoishinī" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto	29th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	30th ditto.
13	"Sādhāranī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto	30th ditto.
14	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto	1st May 1876.
15	"Sabachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	1st ditto.
16	"Sāptāhik Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	2nd ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	2nd ditto.
18	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly	4th ditto.
19	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily	26th April to 4th May 1876.
20	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	29th April to 5th ditto.
21	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	3rd May 1876.
22	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna ...	Weekly	26th April 1876.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	29th ditto.
24	"Jām-Jehān-numā" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	5th May 1876.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

